



The Link



2004 International Patient Care Competition



Above: New Zealand Open Team Treats Roadside Victim

During the May 21-23 weekend, the Priory of Canada hosted their 2004 International Patient Care Competition in Vancouver, British Columbia where 9 Junior, 9 Senior and 7 Open Teams participated. This was Canada's 8th triennial competition since they began back in 1983.

Competitors came from across Canada, New Zealand, England, Northern Ireland, and Wales to compete and utilize their teamwork, initiative, problem solving ability and competency in patient care by challenging realistic scenarios.

Over 260 volunteers, 134 competitors, and many staff worked together to make the event a great success. Organized by a dedicated planning committee over the past three years, the competition took place on the beautiful University of British Columbia campus.

Competitors experienced patient care challenges in natural environmental settings to determine their ability to provide competent and effective treatment in reducing injuries and saving lives. Most challenges were held outdoors, regardless of the weather to simulate as much realism as possible. They involved emergency situations that focus on teamwork, initiative, problem solving ability and competency.

- **Junior challenges** reflected the full scope of the Cadet program, which focuses on youth development. First aid portions of the challenges are at the Emergency First Aid level. Junior team members must have been less than 16 years of age as of the 21st of May 2004.

- **Senior challenges** reflected the training currently required of adult patient care providers within the Priory of Canada. Senior team members may not be professional health care workers.
- **Open category challenges** were based on more advanced knowledge and skills. These team members may be professional health-care workers, i.e. paramedics.

Medals and trophies are of secondary importance to the real objectives of the Patient Care Competition, which were:

- to improve the efficiency of volunteer patient care members;
- to promote the confidence of patient care members by presenting a variety of surroundings in which to work, and an opportunity to work in full view of spectators (*all activities are open to the media and general public*);
- to maintain and increase interest in total patient care;
- to stimulate excellence in patient care performed at the site of an incident;
- to present an opportunity for patient care members to develop camaraderie with their counterparts across Canada and around the world, and to feel pride as part of the larger St. John team; and
- to stimulate interest and increase awareness of St. John Ambulance in the community. *Story by Don Lapierre*



Above the Northern Ireland Junior Team Meets Canadian Mountie

Malawi: Primary Health Care Project Set To Expand

Plans to expand St John Malawi's Primary Health Care Project are now being put into action. Begun in 1988, the project serves people living in the densely populated townships of Ndirande and Mbayani in Malawi's commercial capital, Blantyre. The principal aim of the programme is to reduce mortality rates. St. John volunteer Community Health Workers provide outreach, community-based health care and health education services including growth monitoring and immunisation.

The main health problems in the community are from diarrhoea, cholera, malaria and HIV/Aids-related TB. Amongst other things, the volunteers help with HIV/Aids awareness and homebased care, and have distributed iron, Vitamin A and worm drugs as well as mosquito nets. St John Malawi now hopes to increase the number of Community Health Workers from 25 to 60, and to improve their effectiveness through the purchase of a minibus. Thanks to the volunteer workforce, the costs of the project are relatively low, but the expansion will need some extra funds. These are being provided by St John Malawi, but St John Scotland are pleased and proud to help by giving £10 000 for each of the next 3 years. *Story by Scotland*



Grand Prior's Appeal

On 24 June 2004 His Royal Highness, The Grand Prior, launched an appeal for Southern Africa to the St John family around the world. The aim of the appeal is to raise money to assist the Priory for South Africa launch a project called Home Based Care (HBC) throughout the Republic and in the 9 sub-Saharan African countries in which there are St John Associations, over a period of several years. Sustainability would be sought through grant donor funding. The aim of HBC is to help communities deal with some of the worst effects of HIV/AIDS, including infant mortality, through a training programme within a home environment. The project in no way seeks to combat HIV/AIDS itself, a task of this magnitude is for others more specialised in such a field, rather HBC follows the St John ethos of helping people to help themselves - Pro Utilitate Hominum. Full details of the appeal have gone to the leaders of all Pories and selected St John Associations. More details are available from the Order Secretariat if required.

St John South Africa Takes to the Slopes

Never let it be said that duties are dull! Members of the Brigade in Bloemfontein certainly know how to find the fun ones! Not so long ago, Marc Quesnel of the Maluti Ski Resort in Northern Lesotho, contacted St John Ambulance with regard to training members of his staff in first aid.

After extensive discussions between Marc and St John Ambulance in Bloemfontein, the idea of a St John Ski Patrol began to develop. Marc Quesnel was a former volunteer member and patrol leader with St John in St Sauveur, Canada, in the Sixties and Seventies before settling in Ladybrand. (St John Ski Patrols have been in operation for over 40 years in Canada.)

After many more discussions, the project was given the green light. Marc set about translating the 'Ski Patrollers' manual from the French and members were trained to form the 'Maluti Division'. At present all 16 members of the Division can ski, so no additional training was needed on that front. They make use of equipment belonging to Marc and the Ski Resort. Through his contacts in St John Canada, Marc arranged for a donation of official red St John Ski Jackets as well as equipment pouches which are worn around the waist. Each pouch contains basic first aid equipment to deal with minor wounds & bleeding, minor injuries as well as resuscitation. Special equipment such as 'ambulance sleighs' are used by the division to transport casualties when necessary.

At present, members of the Maluti Division are on duty during the week and over weekends during daylight hours. The members are Marc Quesnel, Riëtte Quesnel, Adrian Husband, Bennie v.d. Linde, Benette v.d. Linde, Michael Kelly, Per-Ola Nuygren, Brigitta Nygren, Delphine Vogts, Victor Tsoneyane, Sorinja Ludick, Marcel Borman, Analize Brits, Carolien v.d. Merwe, Johan Bosman and Armand Müller. As this is the first year of the ski resorts' operation, it is not yet clear when the skiing season will end.

Kenyan Vice-President Attends Parade

St. John Kenya had a successful Annual Parade and Inspection event on 27 June 2004. The Vice President of Kenya, Hon. A. A. Moody Awori, EBS MP, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. There were over 900 Cadets and Adults, and 250 Badgers on Parade.



News from Jamaica

Commemoration Service



Above: The Jamaica Constabulary Force Band giving the 'Eyes Right' at the Annual Commemoration Service of the Order of St John, Jamaica.

The Annual Commemoration Service for The Order of St John in Jamaica was held on Sunday 27 June 2004, at Christ Church Anglican, Vineyard Town, Kingston, Jamaica.

Officiating was The Revd Canon Weevil Gordon, CD. The sermon was given by The Revd Dr Webster Edwards, OD. The first second lesson was read by His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Howard Cook ON, GCMG, GCVO, CD, KStJ, Governor General and President of The St John National Council and the second lesson by Mr Victor H. Rhone, OSTJ, Chairman of the National Council.

Music was provided by Mr Dwight McBean, Organist and the Jamaica Constabulary Force Band. His Excellency took the Salute at the March Parst after the service in which the following uniformed groups took part:

The Jamaica Defence Force, The Jamaica Constabulary Force, The Island Special Constabulary Force, The Correctional Services, The Jamaica Fire Services, The St John Ambulance Brigade and The Jamaica Combined Cadet Force.

Jamaica Training Trainers!



It was an historic occasion when on Wednesday, 14th July 2004, 38 men and women of the Jamaica Constabulary and Island Constabulary Forces, the Jamaica Fire Brigade, The Correctional Service, the National Water Authority and the North Central and South East Areas of St. John Ambulance, completed a Training Course for Trainers in First Aid and CPR. The Course was arranged and conducted Mr. C.N. Powell, OSTJ. It is the largest number of persons ever to be trained in this discipline since the Order came to Jamaica in 1899. These Candidates are to be deployed all over the Island for the teaching of First Aid and CPR.

Asia Pacific Meeting—Colombo

The second prestigious St. John Asia Pacific Meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 11-13 February 2004. St. John Ambulance Sri Lanka made elaborate arrangements to host the guests from the Asia Pacific region, at the Galadari Hotel in Colombo.

On the first day, 11 February, there was a well attended inauguration ceremony with delegates and invitees participating. Subsequently the meeting proper was held at the conference room of the Hotel. Delegates from Australia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka attended the meeting. They deliberated on the future of the organisation as a whole and discussed the countries of the region. Mr. John Strachan, Sub Prior, chaired the meeting. Mr Moksevi R. Prelis, Chairman, Mr E N Rajah Sinnathuray, Vice Chairman, Dr J G Jayatillake, Commander and Dr S M Samarage, Director attended as the delegates from St John Sri Lanka.

The second and third days were preoccupied with workshops. Some of the subjects deliberated at the workshops were on Training, Membership issues, Grant Funding and Pre-Hospital Trauma Care conducted by Dr S M Samarage and Maj Gen Dr K D P Perera from Sri Lanka.

Johanniter International Assistance



The Johanniter Emergency Relief Organization (JUH) is an organization belonging to the Protestant order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem and is a recognized charitable organization. Its tasks include, training in first aid measures, first aid and rescue services as well as ambulance services and protection of citizens. Based on the domestic medical core competence of the JUH, its central tasks in international assistance include medical emergency assistance following catastrophes, assistance with the restoration of every day civilian life in crisis areas, establishment of basic health services, medical training and further training, the fight against infectious diseases and epidemics as well as orthopedic assistance for the disabled and persons injured in wars. In the case of a catastrophe, experienced staff and numerous volunteers can be **mobilized** immediately via the department for International Assistance in Berlin and two international assignment centers in Hamburg and Kempten. The members of the Johanniter organization are also active in development work in health-related projects.

Bereavements

Fiji: Adi Lady Lala Mara

The late Adi Lady Lala Mara hailed from the village of Lomanikoro in the Province of Rewa. She had dedicated many hours of service to St. John and always attended St. John functions with her late husband and former Patron, Ratu Sir Kamises Mara.

In recognition of her dedicated service to St. John, Adi Lady Lala Mara was awarded the Commander (Sister medal) in 1983.

We still have vivid memories of when she visited St. John Headquarters for official functions and how she would mingle with the members. She was always interested in how the members felt as a volunteer.

Adi Lady Lala Mara had one very important virtue, which was leadership. She was softly spoken and considerate. She frequently made the point that if one wanted to be a good officer or volunteer, you must serve with a smile and have a considerate attitude towards others.

Gone now is someone we cherish and we know that she is now resting in peace in her heavenly father's home. Thank you Adi Lady Litia Katafanga Lala Mara for your sincere service to our organisation – The Order of St. John.

Kenya: Brig (Retd) Cromwell Oliver Mkungusi MBS

Brig Cromwell Oliver Mkungusi MBS, Chief Commissioner for Kenya, was tragically shot by assailants on Sunday 2 May 2004.

The late Brig Mkungusi joined St John Ambulance in April 2004 and rose to the rank of Chief Commissioner for Kenya. He was extremely committed to the service for mankind and spent a lot of his time doing St. John work.

In actual fact he left the St. John office on Friday 30th April slightly before 1900 after drafting official letters and was preparing to attend a meeting with donors on Monday 3 May 2004 in the morning.

St. John Kenya has lost a senior officer of a high calibre whose selfless service and humane nature we shall all miss.

Record Applicants

A record number of admissions to and promotions in the Order of St. John from St. John Associations were approved by the Grand Prior and sanctioned by Her Majesty The Queen in July 2004. The fifty-four people honoured were from Associations in Antigua and Barbuda, Kenya, Malaysia, Malta, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka.

The next meetings of the Order Honours and Awards Committee are scheduled for 28 September 2004, 22 November 2004, 16 February 2005 and 5 April 2005. Recommendations with full citations and signed by the St John Association chairman should be received at least two weeks in advance of these dates by the Order Secretariat.

Sri Lanka: Youth Leaders Expedition



Above is a photograph of the Youth Leaders' expedition in Peessa Water fall in Badulla district. This was a 6 days resident training programme from 12 to 17 on December 2003 at Madagama National in Monaragala district. This programme was organised in order to train 60 leaders to operate the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme in Sri Lanka. Participants walked approximately 30 kilometres on a difficult track. This event was organised by St. John Monaragala. The Commander Dr. J.G. Jayatilaka also participated in the expedition. It was a great success!

Secretary General's Visit to Asia and the Pacific

On 11 August 2004, the Secretary General, Rear Admiral Andrew Gough embarked on a month long tour of Asia and the Pacific. During his time away he will visit a number of St John Associations. The purpose of the tour is to familiarise himself with activities in these regions while also assisting the Sub-Prior, John Strachan in carrying out Investitures.

A brief itinerary follows:

12 August - Singapore

He will attend an official dinner and have an informal discussion with St. John Officials where he will be briefed on St John's activities in Singapore.

13 August - Hong Kong

In Hong Kong the Secretary General will attend a variety of business meetings.

19 August - New Zealand

Attending a conference in Christchurch.

22/ 23 August - Papua New Guinea

In Port Moresby the Secretary General is attending an Investiture Ceremony with the Sub-Prior. He is also visiting with the Governor General and observing St John activities.

27 August - Solomon Islands

At a dinner with the President, the Sub-Prior will officiate at another Investiture ceremony.

30 August - Fiji

Finally the Secretary General and Sub-Prior are visiting Fiji. Here they are looking at St John facilities and the final Investiture will be carried out.